

Our landmark legislation shines a bright light on one of the most underreported and unrecognized areas of egregious human rights violations, the international persecution of individuals based on their real or perceived sexual or gender identity.

Supported by 44 of our colleagues, we believe very strongly that we must send a clear message that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people must be treated with the same dignity and respect as every human being, and not with hatred and violence that they face in all too many places in the world.

Ongoing persecutions against the LGBT community include arbitrary arrests, rape, torture, imprisonment, extortion, and even extra judicial executions.

The scope of these human rights violations is staggering, and for the victims, there are few avenues for relief. Some countries create an atmosphere of impunity for rapists and murderers of gays and lesbians by failing to prosecute or even to investigate violence targeted at these individuals because of their sexual orientation. Not only do some countries refuse to sanction these abuses, but often, agents of the State perpetrate them. And believe it or not, at the outset of the 21st Century there are still countries that advocate the death penalty for people who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered.

We simply cannot ignore the number and frequency of such grievous crimes any longer. As our legislation makes clear, the international community has long established a legal framework for the protection of international human rights, based on the individual human being. The world community voluntarily agreed upon these legal instruments, and we have to demand vigorously that the parties to those treaties fulfill their obligations. We must demand that all countries obey international norms, particularly those countries that have become a party to international human rights treaties. None of these instruments, which are the foundation for a peaceful and civilized world community, exempt anybody from the protection of their human rights because of gender, race, origin or age, and most certainly there are no exceptions from full protection on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Our legislation urges the Administration to develop a new strategy in our foreign policy to directly combat these outrageous violations, and tear away the veil of silence or ignorance on those tragic developments all over the world, which have a devastating impact on the lives of each individual affected.

Our Resolution details just a few examples of violence against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered individuals in countries as wide ranging as Mexico, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Nepal, among others.

My colleagues and I are committed to protecting human rights wherever they come under attack. I will work hard to create a broad bipartisan coalition to support this legislation in this Congress and beyond.

Our legislation has the wide support of the human rights community, and I would particularly like to thank Amnesty International, the Human Rights Campaign, Human Rights Watch and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, as well as National Latina/o Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Organization (LLEGO), for their input and support.

## TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JAMES RAINWATER

### HON. JACK KINGSTON

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 25, 2003*

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life of James Rainwater, mayor of Valdosta, GA, who passed away recently at the age of 62. James is survived by his two daughters, a son-in-law and two grandchildren: Jamie Rainwater, Michael and Robin Woodruff, Blake and Jarred Woodruff.

Jimmy Rainwater began his political career as a councilman in 1986 before he took the Mayor's seat two years later. With nearly 16 years in office, Jimmy Rainwater served as Valdosta's Mayor longer than anyone in the city's past. When he entered the office of Mayor, he addressed and solved many problems that were plaguing the city, from poor quality drinking water to slow growth of industry to the low morale of the city employees and departments. From 1988 to 2003, Mayor Rainwater saw Valdosta grow to become home of Valdosta State University and achieve metropolitan status. He helped save Moody Air Force Base from closing and saw the accreditation of the police and fire departments.

Jimmy Rainwater wasn't just a mayor in the traditional sense of an official who presides over City Council and attends to the business of the city. He was devoted to these tasks. He rarely missed a council meeting. He often worked the phones and personally visited people to get things done. But there was more to his tenure as mayor than just attending to the business of the city.

Jimmy Rainwater seemed to attend almost everything. Wearing a pair of his many cowboy boots, he was a familiar figure at business grand openings and ground breakings, in the newspaper and on local television, in neighborhoods and community events, at banquets, dinners and suppers, charity balls and organizational fundraisers. He presented awards and proclamations, attended funerals and retirements, church services and military changes of command.

Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Rainwater was a fine American leader who will be sorely missed. It is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Jimmy Rainwater.

## CONTRIBUTIONS OF JACK AND ELEANOR BUELL

### HON. C. L. "BUTCH" OTTER

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 25, 2003*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions of Jack and Eleanor Buell of St. Maries, Idaho, to the 2003 Capitol Holiday Tree. For the first time in history, Idaho has the distinct honor of supplying the nation's Christmas tree. The magnificent Engelmann spruce was harvested from the Boise National Forest, visited 53 Idaho communities, and now is on its way to the Capitol. This historic journey was made possible by the tremendous generosity of Jack and Elea-

nor Buell. Owners of Buell Trucking, they donated the truck, custom-made trailer and driver for the Capitol Holiday Tree and the 70 companion trees that will be displayed throughout Washington, DC. This has been a wonderful gesture of volunteerism by Jack and Eleanor, and it is indicative of the way they live. Jack is a long-time Commissioner in Benewah County, where he and Eleanor have given to their community and the State of Idaho time and again. The citizens of St. Maries, Benewah County, and the State of Idaho have for years owed a debt of gratitude to Jack and Eleanor Buell. Mr. Speaker, for their efforts to make the Capitol Holiday Tree possible, the nation owes them our thanks as well.

## INCREASING THE WAIVER RE- QUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN LOCAL MATCHING REQUIRE- MENTS TO AMERICAN SAMOA, GUAM, THE VIRGIN ISLANDS, OR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

SPEECH OF

### HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 18, 2003*

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for this legislation. As has been stated, this legislation would provide needed relief to Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands by increasing the matching waiver requirement for federal grants. The House's passage of this bill today would be timely given the fact that our territorial governments continue to face declining revenues.

The difficult economic conditions in the territories make it particularly challenging for us to access federal grants, given the matching requirements and the current inflexibility in waiving these requirements.

I am pleased this legislation not only increases the waiver requirement from the current threshold of two hundred thousand dollars to five hundred thousand dollars, but it also clarifies that this waiver requirement applies across the board—to all federal agencies and departments—and not just for grants administered by the Department of the Interior.

While this legislation seeks to correct this inconsistency in the application of law, I remain concerned about another inconsistency. I am aware of conflicting and varying application of the waiver requirement among federal agencies and departments with respect to the grant recipient. The non-profit organizations in the territories fulfill a significant role in our communities. Nonprofits help meet the needs of the homeless, the disadvantaged, and those whose lives are buffeted by tough economic times. Their work is often supported by federal grants. Without such federal assistance, the non-profit organizations in the territories would struggle to meet their missions and most would not be able to maintain the current level of assistance to our communities.

On Guam alone, we have a sizable non-profit community. Organizations like Guma Mami, Erica's House, Catholic Social Services, and Sanctuary all work for example to help the